

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

This communication is in response to the continued examination request with amendments received on 01/07/2009. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-10, 12-13, 16-18, 21 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brett A. Valiquet on 3/24/2009.

During the interview conducted on 3/24/2009 between the Examiner and the attorney on the record, Mr. Valiquet, the application has been amended as follow:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

At line 8 please delete: "one of the" and please amend the claim as follows: "a predetermined number of data interfaces each operatively coupled to the data processor and each data interface is configured to receive data from ~~one of the~~ a respective medical examination imaging instruments in real time,...".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-10, 12-13, 16-18 and 21 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance of

Art Unit: 3626

these claims is the inclusion of the limitations, in all of the claims which is not found in the prior art references, of generating a control code for the selected imaging instrument, when a control instruction for actively controlling the selected imaging instrument is entered by the central operator through the input to enable active intervention in real time by the central operator during a patient's imaging examination, wherein the data interface automatically forwards the control code to the selected imaging instrument.

The prior art teach:

Telemedicine system using voice video and data encapsulation and de-encapsulation for communicating medical information between central monitoring stations and remote patient monitoring stations, US 5987519 A, Peifer et al.;

System for monitoring patient by using LAN, US 5038800 A, Oba;

In-home patient monitoring system, US 6402691 B1, Peddicord et al.;

Systems, methods and computer program products for monitoring, diagnosing and treating medical conditions of remotely located patients, US 6024699 A, Surwit et al.;

Ambulatory patient health monitoring techniques utilizing interactive visual communication, US 5544649 A, David et al.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DILEK B. COBANOGU whose telephone number is (571)272-8295. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher L. Gilligan can be reached on 571-272-6770. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. B. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3626
3/24/2009

/C. Luke Gilligan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3626